

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We are writing in regard to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed greenhouse gas reduction rule, known as the Clean Power Plan proposal. As written, the current proposal will have a significant impact on the state of Arizona's rural electric cooperatives, including Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (AEPCO). We urge you to work with AEPCO to mitigate these impacts before the rule is finalized.

AEPCO is a rural, member/consumer-owned power generation and transmission cooperative. It operates one facility, the Apache Generating Station, which is located in southern Arizona's Cochise County. Apache operates two coal-fired steam units, one natural gas-fired boiler and four gas turbines. In total, Apache has approximately 605 MW of installed capacity.

The Apache station supports approximately 250 jobs and serves approximately 150,000 meters that represent more than 350,000 members throughout rural Arizona and including parts of western New Mexico and rural Anza, California. Because of the nature of its membership and unique customer base, AEPCO receives funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) program, which was created under the Rural Electrification Act specifically to provide vital utility services to rural Americans in underserved communities.

Under the EPA's proposed plan, Arizona was given a carbon reduction goal of almost 52 percent, one of the highest carbon reduction goals of all 50 states. We support clean energy technology and production. However, it is imperative that the EPA does not take a one-size-fits-all approach and that rules with such far-reaching implications take into account the unique needs of rural communities. As currently drafted, the EPA's proposed plan would be disastrous to AEPCO, its Member cooperatives, and the hundreds of thousands of members they serve.

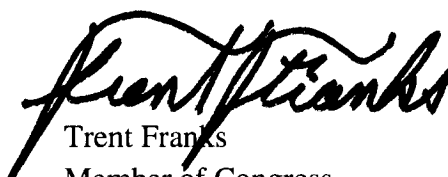
AEPCO has worked in good faith with the federal government in the past and already has committed to spending millions of dollars to meet environmental standards, most notably the EPA's recent regional haze requirements. Given its history of compliance and its service to southern Arizona, AEPCO executives should have the opportunity to meet directly with you to discuss a potential solution that benefits our environment, saves jobs and allows for critical utility services to continue in rural Arizona

We ask that you schedule this meeting in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

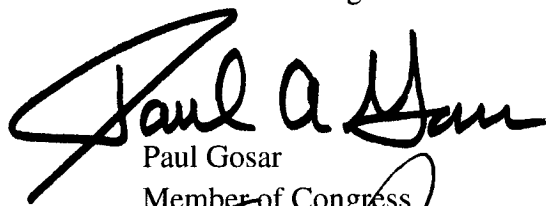
Sincerely,



Ron Barber  
Member of Congress



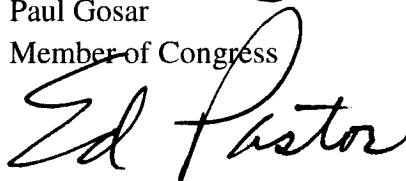
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



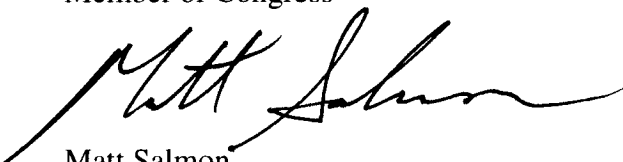
Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



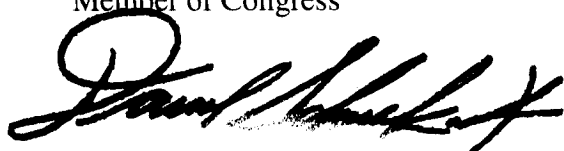
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



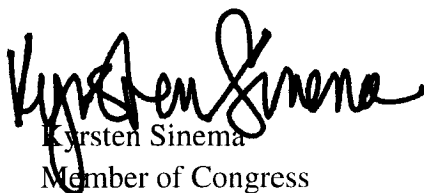
Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress